



## Contents

### News

- Homecoming
- National Day on Writing
- National Leadership Society
- Political Update

### Opinions

- IOS9
- GOP Debate
- Christian Humanism
- How Full is Your Plate?

### Features

- *Shovel Night*
- *Once Upon a Time*
- *Gotham*
- *The Willow Switch*
- *Dogger's*
- *The Visit*

### Sports

- Soccer
- Cross Country
- Football
- Volleyball

### Back Page

- Creative Corner

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# Homecoming 2015: A Weekend to Remember

By Makayla Copeland  
News Writer

Homecoming, the time to reunite with alumni, watch football, and participate in activities that students remember forever. With so many thing on campus going on it is hard to keep up, but luckily for you I have what happened from the kings and queens to the rave.

"I thoughts the pep rally was fun and really got everyone pumped up for Saturday. The tents at the game were a good idea because it kept you out by the field and not having to walk all the way back across campus" said freshman Toni Raver. The Amazing Race put on by PAC was the start to homecoming weekend. Students who participated were in teams of two, and teams competed in different challenges throughout the campus trying to get a top spot by the end of the night. Each night teams who were not in the top were eliminated until the final rounds on Friday night.

"The Amazing Race had some good competition that made for an exciting three nights! The Rave, due to popular demand, was brought back and had an even bigger turnout than last year! Definitely a night to remember!" said PAC president

On Saturday everything was in full swing starting with a busy morning leading up to the football game. While the football game

was going on students, staff, and alumni could go around to mingle, and have lunch. In the same area as the food there was tie-dye shirts, and bracelet making for young children.

"I wanted to be on homecoming court so I could the full homecoming experience" said homecoming court nominee Justin Meredith.

During halftime of the football game homecoming king and queen was announced. The winner for king was Kyle Hodge, and the winner for queen was Chloe Broeker.

"It (rave) was definitely what I expected. Good DJ, and I had a

good time. I loved seeing people getting involved with the school" senior, Nate Tidwell.

The rave rounded out the night with great music, and PAC also provided light up gloves and foam sticks. People were dancing, and overall just having a great time. As the night went on, more and more people were dancing having a great time. The rave had a vibe that made everyone feel welcome and you could just go up to dance with anyone.

"I had a great time going to all the sporting events, and hanging out with all my friends the whole day" said freshman Mike Conrad. From The Amazing Race to

the rave and everything in between there was something for everyone.

"The turnout for all homecoming events this year was amazing! We had a good amount of pumas show up for the rave, Amazing Race, and the football game! Already looking forward to next year!" said PAC president Logan James

"I dearly looked forward to Homecoming because my family came all the way from Texas to watch the football game and spend time with me" Sophomore Ana Lara



Students cheer on the SJC football team during the Homecoming game  
Photo courtesy of Jennifer Kearney



Above: The Puma dances to the rhythm of the SJC percussion section  
Photo courtesy of Jennifer Kearney



Above: Chloe Broeker and Kyle Hodge are crowned Homecoming queen and king  
Photo courtesy of Jennifer Kearney

Below: SJC's 2015 Homecoming Court  
Photo courtesy of Jennifer Kearney



Left: The cheerleaders bring the Puma Spirit  
Photo courtesy of Jennifer Kearney





# Why Do You Write:

## National Day of Writing Celebration Scheduled

By Alyssa Cook  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Writing plays an important role in our lives, maybe more so than we think. This idea is at the center of National Day on Writing, an annual event celebrated all over the United States, which is sponsored by the National Council of Teachers of English. On October 20th, from 7-9 pm CDT in the Carnegie Center, the Prairie Arts Council will be holding its own showcase event celebrating the role writing plays in the lives of Jasper and Newton county residents. Organized by Associate Professor of English, Dr. Maia Hawthorne, the 2015 National Day on Writing celebration will give writers of all ages the chance to connect and join a larger community of creative minds with similar interests.

Writers of all walks of life, from students to published authors, are invited to come to the Carnegie Center in Rensselaer on the 20th and share their work at National Day on Writing showcase event. This segment will give a diverse group of

writers the chance to either share work with the audience or share experiences and stories about how writing has affected their lives. Writers of all genres are encouraged to present at the showcase and connect with other writers who have similar interests or experiences in the field.

Writers are also encouraged to become a part of the National Day on Writing celebration by joining the Prairie Arts Council’s Facebook campaign. This campaign will run until the 20th and will provide an outlet for all writers to share their experiences as well as their answers to two questions, which the Prairie Arts Council poses to them: “What do you write?” and “Why do you write?” Posts may be about any type of writing including prose, poetry, journalism, blogging, note-taking, genealogical writings, news writing, or NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month) projects.

The showcase event on the 20th will also feature a wide variety of visual displays in addition to readings. These displays, many of which showcase the work of students,

will help to show the role that writing plays in the lives of some of the youngest writers in our community. Some SJC Education majors are having their students contribute to displays as well. Junior, Kylie Hill, is currently putting together a display that will highlight the work of student writers in her PLE classroom. “I think [the display] will give my sixth graders confidence in their abilities as communicators...” Hill said. “I feel like a visual display will give them an opportunity to use all of their creativity and find more meaning in their writing.”

Among the visual displays will also be the work of SJC students, contributed by on-campus organizations such as *Measure* and the Writer’s Guild. Furthermore, all students can become involved with visual displays by contributing to the line-at-a-time poems and paragraph-at-a-time stories, which will be circulated around campus. As the month of October begins, all are encouraged to get involved in National Day on Writing and consider the role writing plays in their lives.

# National Leadership Society Marches onto Campus

By Kylie Hill  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

This year, Saint Joseph’s College has welcomed a new honor society on campus, The National Society of Leadership and Success, Sigma Alpha Pi. The society currently has 172 members. It is geared towards helping students develop quality leadership skills that will allow them to succeed. The advisor is Jessica Chapman, Director of Career Services.

Chapman says that her goal for the society “is to create opportunities for our students to learn more about themselves by pursuing and organizing volunteer opportunities.”

The National Society of Leadership and Success Society has hundreds of chapters all over the country. The core philosophy of the program is “anyone can achieve their dreams with proper support and dedicated action.”

Chapman says that students were selected to join the society by grade point average. She says, “For this semester, we invited sophomores, juniors and seniors with a 2.8 or higher GPA. We are looking at making the requirements more strict for future semesters.”

Those who decided to join the society must first go through a rigorous initiation process that includes an orientation, a three hour Leadership Training Day

(LTD), attend a guest speakers series, among other requirements. The LTD “is a chance to learn more about yourself and the Foundations of Leadership while also engaging others... creating a community with fellow members,” according to the society’s website.

Speakers that will be livestreaming presentations to students include Al Roker, John Maxwell, John Leguizamo, and Jessie Eisenberg. These speakers will give students advice on success and leadership skills. Chapman commented that “You do not need to be in the society to attend these speaker broadcasts - all students are welcome to attend.”

Membership benefits include a personalized letter of

recommendation for your future employer or graduate school, the ability to list leadership training on your resume, employer recruitment, an exclusive online job bank, networking with other top students on campus, discounts that can save you hundreds of dollars on computers, textbooks, car insurance and grad school prep courses, and over \$200,000 scholarships exclusive to inducted Society members.

Students in the society have already begun the initiation process. They have completed their orientation. Their LTD and dates for the speakers have been scheduled. Chapman mentioned that “the steps take about 12 hours to complete and can be done in one semester or over the course of one school year.”



Left: National Society of Leadership and Success seal. This is a new society at Saint Joseph’s College that is geared towards helping students be more successful and prepared for the workforce. Photo courtesy of Google Images

# 2016 Election Update: Walker Bows Out of Election



By Jose Arteaga  
Political Columnist

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker dropped out of the presidential race this week, exiting with the same forgettable tone that unfortunately defined and doomed his 2016 campaign. Battling unions and battling ISIS are very different things; Walker appeared entirely unready for the national stage. Walker implored other struggling candidates to follow his (and former Texas Gov. Rick Perry’s) example and quit the race early. His statement that he wanted to “lead by helping clear the field” (self-serving though it was) could create some pressure, both inside the Republic National Committee and from voters to get bottom-rung candidates to bow out before they flame out and damage the more serious candidates in the process. As the postmortems of the Walker

campaign pile up, his failed BID has led to some obvious questions for the rest of the GOP hopefuls. If Walker is out, what about those candidates with even less favorable odds of victory? Shouldn’t a few more tap out at this stage of the race? The answer is yes -- a bunch of them should.

A quick look at the polls shows the remaining candidates from the “kids table” second-tier debate -- Lindsey Graham, George Pataki, Bobby Jindal, Rick Santorum -- are all stuck in the 1% or less club. In fact, a Fox News poll this week shows Santorum, Jindal and Graham at 0%. Jim Gilmore didn’t even qualify for the CNN debate, and his biggest problem seems to be that voters have no idea who he is (tough to WIN a national election under those conditions). My prediction will be that we will see more politicians drop out in the next couple of weeks. If this election tells you one thing, it is to expect the unexpected. Who knows, by the next update Donald Trump might drop out. One can hope.

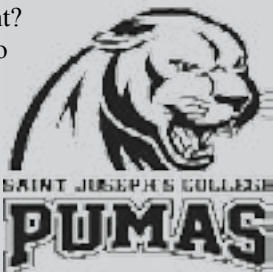


Left: Gov Scott Walker announces his withdrawal from the 2016 Presidential race. Photo courtesy of Google Images

# Upcoming Puma Events!

October 5-8- Midterms  
October 9-11 - Fall Break  
October 11-13 - Take Back the Night  
October 12-18- Presidential Inauguration  
October 17 - Family Day

Want to get the word out about your event? Email the date and name of your event to Kylie Hill at khw10051@saintjoe.edu or Alyssa Cook at acw10024@saintjoe.edu!



# Opinion

## CNN Republican Presidential Debate

by Steven Sewell  
*Opinions Writer*

I watched the CNN Republican presidential debate on September for the hell of it. I’m not a Republican, nor do I intend to vote Republican in the upcoming election, but I do try to stay informed about current events. I also find pleasure in watching presidential debates, but maybe I’m just boring. Nonetheless, there were some interesting takeaways from this debate, and I enjoyed it thoroughly.

The debate was centered on Donald Trump, who received by far the most airtime. A large amount of questions were about him as well, which in turn made for some fun television. Trump blasted Kentucky Senator Rand Paul, questioning why he was even at the debate because he’s “...number eleven, he’s got one-percent in the polls, and how he got up here, there’s far too many people anyway.” He also criticized former Governor of Florida, Jeb Bush, for not having energy prior to the debate. It’s always fun to see The Donald rip on other

candidates.

Doctor Ben Carson criticized Trump for being an anti-vaxxer (someone who is against vaccinations). IT’s nice to have someone call out ignorance on the stage, even if he’s a climate change denier and a die-hard creationist. That seems to me like a step forward for the GOP, which usually just parrots ignorance.

I think that a politician making jokes is usually cringe-worthy, but Senator Rubio didn’t do anything to buck this notion when he started that he’s “...also aware that California has a

drought, that’s why I made sure I brought my own water.” It might be somewhat funny if he wasn’t a climate change denier too, but for now it just seems to me like a hollow jest.

Kentucky Senator Rand Paul had low airtime, but he made the most of it. He said that people need to pump the brakes on Iran and not be so hasty to act. He also criticized the rest of the candidates for their views and politics on cannabis, considering how many of them have

most likely smoked it before. I like Rand Paul, as he’s one of the few Republican candidates who aren’t a complete moron. It’s a shame he’s so far down in the polls.

I found the CNN Republican presidential debate interesting, for a few reasons. There’s a laundry list of other things that happened, but there’s only so much space in The Observer, which in truth could be filled with all of the funny, shocking, and inane things said September 16th. I encourage anyone who’s interested in the upcoming election to watch the

debates, as one of the best ways to familiarize yourself with the candidates.



Above: Donald Trump during the election. Image Courtesy of Google Images Online

## iOS 9

by Kertney Brozyna  
*Opinions Writer*

For anyone that updated their iPhone to the new iOS 9, you realize how different this update is. Apple chose to focus on upgrading their current apps and transitions, rather than creating all-new designs. For example, when you double tap the “Home” button, you can switch your apps just the same, but it looks so much better. Before, the apps were on the right and looked pretty bland. Now, the apps are displayed on the right and look crystal-clear and flawless. It’s a beautiful change. Another huge change from iOS 9 is the new back-button feature. When you go from one app to another, the top of your phone displays a back button to go to the previous app you were on. It’s very convenient, and I use it constantly now. Other than those two major changes, there are small features that were updated to go with the notes and reminders apps. The font has been subtly changed from a Helvetica Neue to a San Francisco typeface. It’s subtle, but looks great.

I have an iPhone 6 Plus, so this update is very compatible to the phone because it is a newer iPhone. However, I’ve heard from others that the update has slowed their phone significantly. They have just one generation lower of an iPhone than I do. Not only does their phone slow down, it freezes completely. Another issue a friend of mine was having is that her Backup didn’t work. She backed up her photos, texts, and everything to iCloud, but when she updated her phone, her Backup wouldn’t go back onto her phone. She called Apple to let them know about the issue, and they said others have been having this problem as well. Apple told her that it was their top priority at the moment.

So, whether you’re like me and think the new iOS is absolutely amazing, or you’re stuck with the issues of an older iPhone, you can’t deny that the features look gorgeous. Everything transitions so much better, and it’s so much prettier. It’ll probably be a couple more years before Apple completely redoes the iOS to make it look completely different. iOS 9 is enough to hold me over until that time comes, though. I’m a die-hard Apple fan, and I’ll continue to praise their products. For this update, I applaud them, and I cannot wait for the next iOS to come out!



## What Is Christian Humanism?

by Thomas Day  
*Opinions Writer*

What is the undergirding philosophy of Saint Joseph’s College? Typically, when one asks, they are given the answer of Christian Humanism; some vaguely defined synthesis of the teachings of Vatican II and modern theology. Well, I would identify as a Christian Humanist, but it seems to me that the way that particular school of thought is represented here is insufficient to stand as a philosophy or worldview by itself, that is to say, in its own words, it is not a self-sufficient ethos.

When looking at any worldview, I start by looking at the principal of first and second things, as spoken of by CS Lewis. This very simply principal states that if we put first things first, second things will follow, but if we put second things first, we will get neither first or second things. That, I believe is the crux of the matter here with Christian Humanism. It seems to my mind to be a cherry picking of very important, but quite secondary, matters of Christian thought without dealing with first principals.

Take for instance the belief in human dignity. This has been expressed as a keynote in the Christian Humanist synthesis, but it does not stand on its own; indeed, it relies on belief in metaphysical and theological underpinnings that are rarely, if ever, expressed in the Core program. Take the point of the person of Jesus Christ being the center of all Christianity. Great. But one cannot make of it a coherent worldview of it if they divorce Christ from His Bride, the Church, as spoken of in the last book of the Bible.

In short, I think I have to ask, what is the difference between Christian Humanism (as spoken of by the college) and Catholic Christianity? The best of the former seems to be a logical outgrowth of the latter, but can “mere” Christian Humanism stand up by itself? I don’t think so.

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We, the newspaper staff of *The Observer*, while exercising our First Amendment rights to freedom of speech, promise to adhere to the highest journalistic standards. *The Observer* will not print articles, editorials, or other material that misquote or misrepresent members or organizations within the Saint Joseph’s College community. While constantly striving to meet these goals, we can and will print retractions amending or remedying any problems brought to our attention.

Left:iOS9 Design and Format. Photo courtesy of Google Images Online

# features

## The Visit

By Connor Ring  
Features Writer

When you go to see a horror film, usually the idea is that you are looking to be scared. However, from what a lot of people are already saying about *The Visit*, it would almost strike you as a satire of a horror movie similar to *Scary Movie*, and to be honest, it’s kind of like that. Now don’t get me wrong, this film is not trying to be funny. They really wanted you to be scared by this film, and it is painfully obvious how not scary it is. However, I feel like this movie is akin to *The Room*, as it is trying to be dramatic and provoking, but just comes off as silly.

So what makes this movie not very scary? Well, for one thing, the story is just not a scary scenario. I don’t really know who thought that visiting your grandparents was a great setup for a horror movie, but they should stick their business elsewhere, because horror is not their genre. Seriously, when was the last time you were afraid to go to your grandparents’ house? I could see it working if they

actually used this scenario to their advantage, taking things that we stereotypically see our grandparents doing and changing it to be seriously creepy, as that would be playing with our emotions and making us confused, and thus frightened by what we are seeing due to the conflicting messages. But no, we instead are offered killer grandparents. How is that scary? It isn’t even like the characters in the movie know them well anyways, since apparently they never even went to visit before, and their mother apparently has a grudge from before that stops her from going back to visit herself. It is just a bad setup to begin with, and it isn’t even very creative with what it was given.

The other thing that struck me while I was watching the film is that it really doesn’t know what it wants to be. That sounds weird to say, but when you watch this film, it almost can’t make up its mind. “Is it trying to be funny here?” “Was that supposed to make me scared?” I was constantly asking those questions throughout the movie, and I honestly don’t know

the answer to it in a sense. When the movie tried to scare you, it was funny rather than scary. When it tried to be comical, it wasn’t funny at all. The movie felt more like a comedy with a horror twist to it, and I honestly think that the movie would do itself more justice with that.

However, what it really boils down to is that the movie just isn’t a good horror film. If you want to go watch a film that is going to really scare you, I don’t think *The Visit* is the film for you. It isn’t a scary setup, it has little to no scare value with what the story gives it, and it comes off as a comedy more often than it does a horror film. However, I recommend this movie to anyone looking for a comedy, because it is actually somewhat funny because of how bad it fails at being a horror film. I won’t stop anyone from visiting the theater for this film, but for me, I don’t think I’ll be eager enough for a second visit.



Above: A poster for *The Visit*.  
Photo courtesy of Google Images.

# The Willow Switch

By Karen Gramajo  
Features Writer

Upon entering the small place, I was greeted by the smell of scented candles and decorations of autumn. The wilted Christmas tree stood in the back with pumpkins and an acorn on the top (Uh, top wilting to the side). The Willow Switch has been open for the past six years and is still going strong. The business is held by a small family, and they know everything that goes on in the community. Friendly customers come and go in small chatter as the clinking of dishes and shuffling feet goes about.

The small place sells seasonal home decorations like furniture, coffee, books, decorations, and pastries. It’s sweet and small and beneficial too. They have flyers all over the place relating to big events occurring in Rensselaer. One event that is happening soon is Primary Colors. The Prairie Arts Council is presenting a reception in the Lilian Fendig Gallery in the Carnegie Center. I was persuaded to go by Marsha Wood-Good, who considers Professor Bonnie Zimmer as her hero. She was ecstatic when I told her what my major was (Art).

Her enthusiasm and upbeat attitude matches the place as they played some 1950’s music. Everything has an at-home feel to it as I chew my scone slowly and drink my hot chocolate. I came here before over the summer and purchased a small smoothie. While sitting, I listened to families speak about their daily plans for the week, just like now. It’s nice to be in a

place where you feel welcomed. Even if you are sitting alone at a table, everyone converses. They even have a small set of stairs leading to another dining room where a smaller Christmas tree is displayed. I even enjoyed their quote on the mirror facing me as I abided my time consuming my small meal.

“May our Home; always be too small to hold all of our friends”

The place was small but it held all the friends that came and went. It reminds me of Cup O’ Joe. It’s small but always invites friends from everywhere. Back to The Willow Switch -- with business starting to be busy, children begin to enter and greet as they play with their toys in the small place above. The parents stay below and discuss their plans in activities for the children or communal events. I smiled while I type these last words down and considered taking my friends here someday. It’s cute and small, within a small community. The building stood tall as it did in the 1890’s to 1900’s. There’s even postcards with old photographs of the time. It’s next to other merchandise like coffee mugs, shirts, jewelry, and others. I drank the last of my hot chocolate and headed out towards the door. While passing, I saw a girl hesitating over the new discovery of a lady bug. Her guardian coaxed her to hold the insect and admire it with fascination. I smiled at the moment. I hope this small business will stand for a long time.

# Doggers Downtown!

By Hannah Pulver  
Features Writer

Well kids, this is it. I’ve reached one of my goals in life: Be a food critic. This week I had the lovely opportunity to take a walk to downtown Rensselaer and visit one of the newer restaurants; Doggers. It’s located right on the strip, with a sign that makes you wonder what’s inside. Their logo is extremely simple, but something about it says “Come on in, this is a cool place!”

The inside is huge, very widespread; they have room for a crowd! The only problem is... there isn’t a crowd. I think if they extended their hours, especially on the weekends, they could increase business and receive lots of Saint Joe, after-dinner business. The interior is made to look like it’s all brick, which makes an eccentric atmosphere. They have many tables and a barstool table in the center of the restaurant. Their menu looks really friendly and unique because it’s up on a chalkboard in cool fonts and styles. For me, it’s all about the font, a nice font makes for a nice meal.

Their menu consists of lots of hot dog and hamburger options; they of course have chicken fingers and also a gyro! They offer kids meals and specials as well. Doggers’ prices are low enough to be affordable but high enough to be considered the higher end of fast food. The staff is super duper friendly,



Above: A *Doggers* window image displays their phone number.  
Image courtesy of Hannah Pulver.

and they’re very patient. I know this fact because it took me 15 minutes to order my meal, and they smiled the whole time! I ended up deciding on their gyro, and my sidekick ordered their “Double Dogger” special.

After a little bit of a wait, I got my food. First off, I want you to know that gyros are basically one of my favorite meals, if a place has it, I usually order it! Doggers’ gyro, however, slightly disappointed me. They throw the meat and tomatoes together in your basket and place the pita on top. On the side they give you feta and the cucumber sauce, so I was bummed they didn’t put it all together for me. I know I’m lazy, but hey, when you go out to eat, do you plan on grilling your own hamburger? Exactly. My friend

got a corn dog, and just a regular hot dog. There aren’t many ways you can mess up a hot dog, and Doggers didn’t disappoint! I was hoping to be harsh and mean on my first food critic job, but what can I say? Doggers passed the test!

Hours:  
Mon. 10:30-8  
Tues. & Wed. 10:20-2  
Thurs. & Fri. & Sat. 10:30-8



# Gotham

By Cameron Adams  
Features Writer

Anyone looking for a gritty and challenging TV show? Then go on Netflix and watch the first season of the show, *Gotham*. Some of you can just look at the title and have ideas on what the show is about. Others may not know. This show is similar to “Law & Order” set in the DC Universe City of Gotham. It’s a Batman prequel, yet only it doesn’t focus exclusively on how Bruce Wayne became the Batman. The show focuses more on how Gotham became so bad that it became necessary for someone like the Batman. It stars Ben McKenzie, as Detective Ben Gordon; an honest and hardworking man who is trying to make Gotham the best place it can be. While at the same time trying to solve the murder of Thomas and Martha Wayne and deal with the corruption that seems to be rotting Gotham to the core. Along with his partner, Harvey Bullock(Donal Logue), he interacts with the many people who make Gotham an astounding place. The show stars: Bruce Wayne(David Mazouz), Alfred Pennyworth(Sean Pertwee), Oswald Cobblepot(Robin Lord Taylor), Selina Kyle(Camren Bicondova), Edward

Nygma(Cory Michael Smith), Carmine Falcone(John Doman), and Fish Mooney(Jada Pinkett Smith). His goals come with some challenges. However, not only do those challenges not scare him, they challenge him to do what must be done to make his goal a reality. And if it means going against every corrupt person in power, then so be it. The best part of this show is that you really don’t have to be a fan of the Batman universe to appreciate this show. If you completely take out the aspects of Batman, you still have a fantastic TV show that features amazing acting, a driving story, and compelling characters. Some will appreciate the fact that at the heart of it, this is a crime show. It’s a detective solving crimes and taking the criminals to jail. If you have a spare couple of hours and are interested in a good show to binge watch. Watch “Gotham” and see how the city came to need the Bat. Also if you have already finished or finish it, watch the second season on Monday nights at 7 on FOX.



Above: Promotional poster for the television show *Gotham*, airing on FOX. Photo Courtesy of Google Images.

# Once Upon a Time

By Vivian Myers  
Features Writer

*Once Upon a Time* is a TV show based on very well known fairy tales. You start off with normal people in a little town called Storybrooke, but you soon come to realize that they aren’t so normal. Emma Swan the main female lead, learns from her son Henry, that all of the towns people are from fairy tales. Just like with every other TV show Emma has to go through some crises. Within the first few episodes the crises’ she goes through is finding out and dealing with the fact that these people are from a story book. Emma finds out that Snow White and Prince Charming are her parents. While the woman who adopted Emma’s son, was the Evil Queen. As Emma comes to terms with Storybrooke and all of its crazy-ness the people of the town start remembering who they truly are. Her main mission throughout the TV show is that

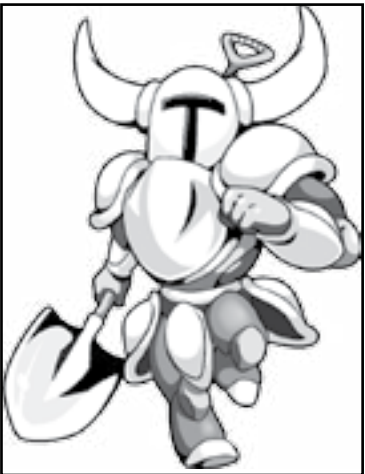
she has to break the Evil Queen’s spell. And once she does break it and everyone knows who they are Emma finds out that she’s the savior. This in turn causes the Evil Queen to hate her even more. Regina, the Evil Queen’s name in “Once Upon a Time”, already hates her because she is the daughter of Snow White and Prince Charming. Plus the fact that Emma is the savior and Regina knows Emma is her undoing. Regina also feels that Emma wants to steal Henry away from her, because Emma is the biological mother of Henry. The writers of *Once Upon a Time* wrote the story so that every single fairy tale is tied together. Something else clever that the writers did is how they present information about each character to the viewers. They continually show a flash back story during the present story. You slowly learn why someone is that way while

By Joe Cain  
Features Writer

The Nintendo Entertainment System, or NES as it’s known by fans, was the video game console that essentially birthed video game culture as we now know it. Before it’s release, the game industry had just gone through a near total crash as a result of an influx of overly expensive, poor quality software, that hit its tipping point with the release of ET: The Game. A game so horrible, that publisher Atari buried the unsold cartridges in the desert. Due to it’s place in the gaming pantheon, and as the home to many of the medium’s bona fide classics, the NES and its stylings hold a nostalgic place in the hearts of game culture’s first generation. And, thanks to the power of the crowdfunding platform Kickstarter and the open wallets of retro game fans everywhere, developer Yacht Club Games has brought us a new side scrolling adventure, and one of the best, most sincere games in ages. Shovel Knight is a side scrolling platformer game in the style of Mario, Ducktales, and many other classics that involved a hero jumping on things and

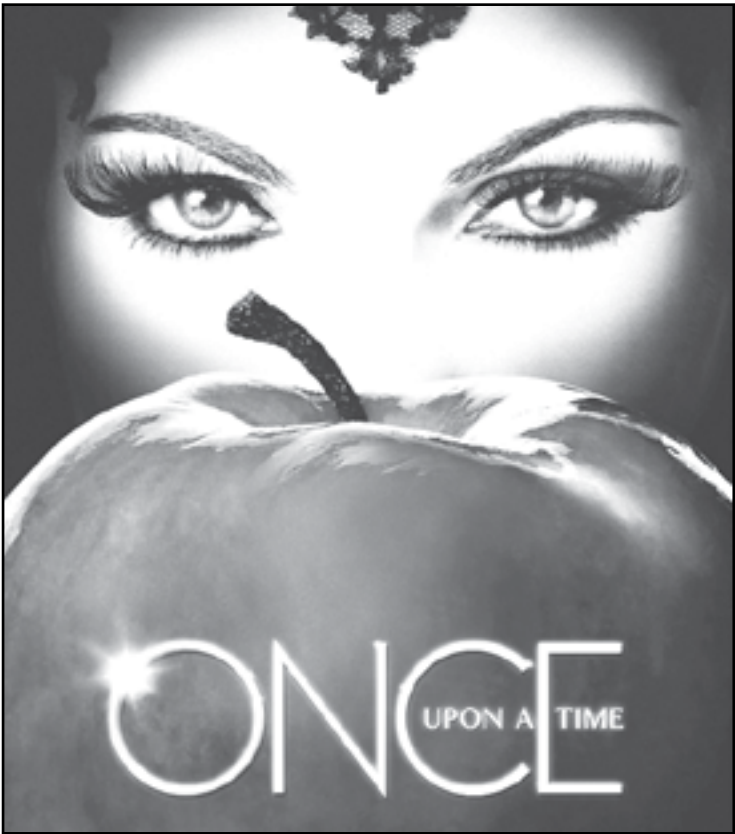
# Shovel Night

collecting shiny objects. The player controls the titular Shovel Knight, an adventurer who’s retired due to depression at the loss of his partner, Shield Knight, who vanished after the two climbed the ominous Tower of Fate. Now, the land has been conquered by the evil Enchantress and her SWAT team of themed knights, and the Tower of Fate has suddenly opened again. Taking up his digging tool once again, Shovel Knight begins a journey across the land, fighting of evil, determined to rescue his friend. That setup alone shows the affection the games creators have for the genre they emulating. The art is purposefully pixelated and basic, using a similar format and color pallet to the NES, albeit with a few technical tricks baked in that older game systems simply weren’t capable of. The characters are all beautifully rendered 2d sprites, each with a distinct recognizable design, from Shovel Knight himself and his horned helmet, to the cartoonishly themed boss knights, which include Propellor Knight, a knight who aeronautics in his spare time, and Tinker Knight, a tiny man so mechanically apt that he built a mech suit to stomp the player with. The gameplay mostly consists of platforming, and occasional bit of combat, which mostly consists of blating enemies in the face with a shovel, bouncing on top of them with the shovel blade pointed down, or using a number of special moves culled from both the item store. Platforms move, disintegrate, and enemies hurl themselves and



Above: Shovel Knight. Photo courtesy of Google Images.

their projectiles at you from all directions, perfectly recreating the feel of frantic arcade style platform game. To top all that off, Shovel Knight actually presents a surprisingly deep story, which sounds odd considering it’s purposefully mimicking an era of games that didn’t really have stories. On the surface, it seems like the standard tale of a brave hero rescuing the damsel in distress. But, as the game reveals through brief flashbacks, Shield Knight is no damsel. She’s an equal in partner to Shovel Knight, and the two are really two halves a single heroic unit, capable of much more as a duo then they ever would be alone. Fans of old school games hoping to recapture some of the magic lost with the new generation of games will find themselves right at home with Shovel Knight, and younger fans will introduced to a fantastic genre lost in the shuffle of grim military shooters.



Above: Promotional poster for ABC television show *Once Upon a Time*. The fifth season premieres Sunday, September 27, 2015.



# PDC Races to Success

By Justin Hays  
*Sports Writer*

The beginning of Cross Country is filled with great anticipation, but also some uncertainty of what is to come. Many miles were put in over the summer months, and no runner truly knows just how fit he or she really is until the first race is underway. The Men’s and Women’s Cross Country teams were finally able to put their fitness to the test these past two weekends at Wisconsin-Parkside University and the University of Notre Dame.

The Midwest Open, hosted by Wisconsin-Parkside, gave the 2015 Cross Country squads a first test of competition. The Men finished 6th out of 11 teams, and were led by solid individual performances by Justin Hays (7th) and Brian Eurton (17th). Filling out the rest of the scoring five were Logan Barrett, Lane Barrett, and Mike Conrad. The Women placed 11th out of 12 teams, and were paced by Nikki Thiede who finished the 5k course in a time of 19:45. Brooke Werstler, Rachel Bartz, Sydney Strang, and Hannah Wallace rounded out the top 5 scorers for the Lady Pumas.

Improvement is the essence of competitive running, so the first meet is hopefully never the best meet of the season. Every new week provides a chance to get better, and the Pumas were hungry to seize

the opportunity. Eager to race, the Men and Women had a brief 5-day rest before heading up to the University of Notre Dame for the National Catholic Championships. The National Catholic Championships attract Catholic schools from all over the country, and is a mix of competition from all three NCAA Divisions as well as NAIA schools.

The National Catholic Championships, held on the campus of the University Notre Dame, had the atmosphere of a post-season competition. With standings separated into Division I and Non-Division I, there were bragging rights on the line for every school. The Men and Women came ready to show they were better than their performances 6 days before at Wisconsin-Parkside.

The desire showed, as both teams were able to make sizeable improvements. The Women’s Cross Country team placed 13 out of 25 Non-Division I teams, and each woman in the top 5 improved their respective times from the Midwest Open. Nikki Thiede once again led the Lady Pumas, but this time in a 26 second season best of 19:19. This time was also a 5 second career best for Thiede. Brooke Werstler, Rachel Bartz, Sydney Strang, and Maddie Biddle rounded out the top 5 for the Pumas. Hannah Wallace, Meghan Hennessey, Gabrielle Pepple, and Millie

Biddle all provided pivotal support in strong performances. The Men showed pronounced improvement as well. Placing 10th out of 25 Non-Division I teams, the Men’s Cross Country team was able to fight through humid conditions to run many season bests as well. The Men’s race was 5 miles, about 12 seconds longer than the usual 8k, Jace Horner and Mike Conrad each improved their previous

season best by a minute. Junior Justin Hays paced the Pumas with a 25:39 19th place finish amongst all divisions. The top 5 for the Pumas were Hays, Brian Eurton, Logan Barrett, Mike Conrad, and Jace Horner.

The Men and Women rest for a week, and look to improve even further at the John Flamer Invite at Southern Illinois-Edwardsville University on October 3rd.



*Pictured: Rachel Bartz and Sydney Strang  
Photo courtesy of Susie Hays*

# Pumas Dominate Quincy

By Casey Snow  
*Sports Writer*

When the Pumas stepped out onto the field for their game on September 25th, their crowd knew it was going to be an aggressive one. “It’s going to be a great game,” Michael Ferguson told the Observer, “they’re undefeated, and our team is tough.” At 7:30 p.m., their home game began under the lights against Quincy University, whose team is ranked 13th in the Great Lakes Valley Conference standings. While the Pumas did not disappoint with a 2-1 win, they successfully kept their fans on the edge of their seats through the entire game.

The game began with a very fast paced tempo as both teams fought to get control of the ball. “It was a very intense game,” forward Erick Turner said, “Quincy is top 20 in the nation, but we’ve been working hard.” Keeper Adam Whybrow made his first save four minutes in, and soon after the Pumas began to take shots on the goal. Nearing halftime, Pumas made the first goal of the game 32 minutes in. After working through the half to score, Alejandro Rosales finally scored which seemed to wake up the other team. Nearing halftime, the intensity of the game continued to grow, and ended with the Pumas in the lead.

With the second half also

came Quincy’s control of the ball. The Pumas did not give in easily, as midfielder Alex Becker had a close shot at just two minutes in. Quincy continued their fight and eleven minutes into the second half, they scored their first goal on the Pumas. After they sent a pass over the defense, they followed it up with their first score on the goal. This was just the beginning of Quincy’s control over the second half, as their shots on the Pumas continued to threaten the tied game. Defense proved to be relentless and kept Quincy from getting the extra goal they needed desperately to keep up their undefeated season. Matt Foy told the Observer, “Everyone had a huge part in this win. At the end it was a very unreal feeling from where we have come from last year to this year.” Despite Quincy’s control of the ball, the Pumas managed to keep the ball and, after midfielder Peter Munro’s shot was kicked off by defense, Emilio Portaluppi came in and turned the attempted shot into his first goal of the season and the game winning goal with only two minutes left in the game.

This game really showed the aggressiveness and fight for the win, as the Pumas attempted 18 shots and Quincy’s Hawks had a total

of 14 shots. Whybrow kept his goal strong with a total of 7 saves against the Hawk’s shots. More than anything, the SJC team proved their dedication as a team. As centerback Branden Thompson says, “the game was

a battle from the start, both teams seemed evenly matched, but what it came down to was heart.” Their next game will be on Friday October 2, in Louisville, Kentucky against Bellarmine University beginning at 6:30 p.m.



*Pictured: Alejandro Rosales stealing the ball  
Photo Courtesy of Fr Tim McFarland*

## Upcoming Events

### October 4th

Men’s & Women’s Tennis  
vs Calumet College of Saint Joseph’s

### October 6th

Volleyball vs University of Indianapolis  
7:00 pm CDT

### October 9th

Women’s Soccer vs McKendree University  
5:00 pm CDT

Volleyball vs McKendree University  
7:00 pm CDT

Men’s Soccer vs McKendree University  
7:30 pm CDT

### October 10th

Football vs Lincoln University of Missouri  
12:00 pm CDT

Volleyball vs University of Illinois Springfield  
3:00 pm CDT

### October 11th

Women’s Soccer vs University of Illinois Springfield  
12 pm CDT

Men’s Soccer vs University of Illinois Springfield  
2:30 pm CDT

### October 17th

Football vs McKendree University  
12:00 pm CDT



# Pumas Bring Homecoming Victory

By Joseph Flaherty  
*Sports Writer*

The 4th quarter began: silence, excitement, agony, and fear filled the stands of the faithful Puma fans who turned out for the annual Homecoming Game. The game was close, a 13-9 score aiding the Pumas, while the visiting William Jewel Cardinals held the momentum after a late 3rd quarter touchdown. Suddenly, the momentum swung like a pendulum that never fiddled from the Puma's side for the rest of the game.

The matchup between the Pumas and the Cardinals took place on September 19th, 2015, and saw the Pumas gain a 34-9 victory which improved their overall season mark to 2-1 and 1-0 in conference play. The outstanding offensive attack was led by Wade Burtron, and Braxton Shelton. Burtron finished the game with 26 completions for 249 yards and two touchdowns. He also finished with 40 yards rushing and 1 touchdown. Braxton Shelton, behind a great offensive line performance, rushed for 108 yards, and had an average of 5.1 yards per carry. His amazing plays highlighted his athletic skills, as he was able to hurdle more than 3 defenders

in getting those stats. Even with the offensive firepower, the Game was a defensive clash the first half. Aided by two Gavin Voss Field Goals, the Pumas went into the half with only a 6-3 lead. The Pumas would score late in the 3rd quarter with a Jeremy Dunwell 17 yard TD pass from Burtron. The Puma defensive defense would allow the only Touchdown against them in the final seconds of the third quarter, making the game 13-9. Then an early 4th quarter touchdown run by Wade Burton took the Pumas to a 20-9 lead. Then the Pumas would add to their lead Jose Esquivel 15 yd pass from Burtron. The Puma defense ended any type of rally from the Cardinals when Cedric Turner took an interception for a 87 yard touchdown.

The stout puma defense once again held the opposing teams offense in check. The Cardinals registered just 57 total rushing yards on the day. The team was led by Jessie Pourch who had ten tackles, Wilky Orelie had 7 including 2 for a loss, and Cedric Turner who had 7 total tackles. The Pumas currently hold a record of 2-2 as their next hopeful victory will be against Quincy University on October 3rd.



Pictured: SJC Puma Football Team  
Photo Courtesy of Saint Joseph's Athletics

## Tennis' Fall Season Comes to a Close



Pictured: Lucas Jessen. Photo Courtesy of Fr Tim McFarland

By Megan Fernandez  
*Sports Writer*

Fall is in the air, and while tennis is a spring sport the Puma's tennis team is already gearing up and competing against some top competitors. As the non-championship fall season continues, the Men's and Women's Tennis teams have already completed 4 of their 5 off season competitions. These Fall matches allow the teams to practice against many different contenders to get a preview of where they may stand in conference come spring of 2016.

The Lady Pumas had an off weekend while the Men competed September 19th and 20th as they traveled to Allendale, Michigan to compete at the ITA Regionals for a two-day competition. The competition had many talented teams from Great Lake Athletic Conference, Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, and Great Midwest Athletic Conference. The teams sent all of their best players to compete. The matches included an A and B singles and double draw. Three of the Pumas competed in A singles and one in B singles. The pumas also had a doubles

team in each bracket. Competing in A singles was Puma's Reid Imel, Sebastian Eguez, and Andrew Klump. Reid Imel defeated Illinois Springfield's Cole Buehnerkemper in a tough match 6-3, 6-4 respectively. While the others fought hard, that was the only win for the Pumas in A singles. Representing Saint Joe in B singles was Jake Likens who fell short to Tiffin University Justin Kopronica, 6-1, 6-0. The doubles puma team of Jake Likens and Samir Shammas grinded out a win against Michigan Tech's Ricardo Paes and Juan Felipe Chica. The Saint Joe crew of Reid Imel and Andrew Klump faced Indianapolis's Andrea Molet and Marco Razo and lost the match 8-4.

When asked how he felt the team did at ITA Regionals, Junior Lucas Jessen replied, "The team as a whole didn't play well this weekend. We have a shorthand team currently and some of our players are battling injuries." (referring to Lucas Jessen who is fighting against his back injury). The team is just now getting adjusted to a new coach, being short handed, and the competition had a lot of higher level schools

than they typically compete against. "I think we all competed hard though and we know what we need work on in order to win when regular season starts." says Jessen.

With this fall season coming to a close, both the men's and women's teams have their eye on regular season goals. Both teams agree that the non-championship season is beneficial preparation building to the regular season, and now can see what they need to improve on. Junior Vanessa Olson says, "The team needs to work on our mental game, tennis is very frustrating and sometimes we let the pressure get to us and we lose mentally." Both teams have just about the same goal for regular season: to improve from last year and beat out teams in their conference.

The Puma Tennis players only have one more match until their fall season comes to an end. The teams will then take what they have experienced during this time to make improvements and continue to work hard in preparation for spring. The Pumas last meet will be played October 4th here on their own turf against Saint Joseph's Community College.

## Puma Athlete Spotlight: Logan Barrett

By Hannah Wallace  
*Sports Editor*



Photo courtesy of Susie Hays  
Photograph

**Logan Barrett is a fifth year senior from Bedford, IN. He majors in Sports Management and is a team captain for the Puma Cross Country Team.**

**When and why did you start running?**

"I started running when I was in sixth grade. I always had a nitch for running in other sports like baseball and soccer so I thought I would give it a try.

**Who is your role model?**

David Eckstein is who I look

up to. He is a retired baseball player best known for the 2006 World Series MVP.

**What are your plans after this semester?**

I have a few options after I graduate this fall. I might enroll in the MBA program here at Saint Joseph's or my hopes are to find a job in event planning.

**What are your hobbies?**

My hobbies include running, studying weather, shooting photography and detailing.

*Do you know someone who should be put in the spotlight? Let us know!  
Email hww1218@saintjoe.edu*

# Creative Corner

## Fall: A Personification By Dr. Michael Steinhour

If Fall were a person.  
She would be cold and wind-blown.  
Hair mussed, cheeks rosy, and a chilly nose perfect for  
small, warming kisses.  
Fall would dress in vibrant shades of red and purple,  
But would respect her earth-tones as well.  
Always a dapper dresser, she would have an outfit for every  
occasion.  
People would stop and stare and comment on her.  
But don’t think Fall shallow or one-dimensional.  
Her thoughts go deep, her roots even deeper.  
She’ll track in leaves but won’t run the sweeper.  
Her laughter would be the rustling of leaves in a slight  
breeze,  
Her words would be softly spoken although her voice  
would bring with it a storm.  
Fall would be a woman of transition, bridging the gap  
between sweaty summer days and snuggly winter nights.  
As complex as RNA polymerase,  
As simple as a smile and a firm handshake.  
“Why all the feminine traits?” one might ask.  
Simply put if Fall were a person, fall would be a woman.  
For no man possesses the range of personality, the depth  
and breadth of character,  
or the eerie grace to be as glorious as Fall.



## Why I Cried Last Night By Cameron Adams

I am completely exhausted right now.

I can barely get up. Barely move. What’s more shocking is that I really don’t want to. I want to fade back into the silence and bliss of sleep. The serenity, the tranquility, it’s almost intoxicating. And I’m not physically tired, but emotionally and mentally tired.

I’m so tired right now.

I’ve never been so tired in my whole life. Granted my life has only been 15 years long, but who said that’s not long enough to get your whole heart shattered?

I didn’t sleep at all last night. You wanna know why? I was crying too much. No, that’s not completely honest. Sobbing was more the appropriate word for what I was doing. It was the kind of sobbing that leaves you feeling completely empty. I was sobbing quietly; I didn’t want to wake anyone up. But regardless of what I did, no matter how much I tried, I couldn’t choke it down anymore. I couldn’t be numb anymore.

If I didn’t let it out, I would explode. I would find a way to stop the pain-- regardless of the method. I would have done anything to stop this pain that I felt.

So last night, I closed the door to my room, sat in front of it and had my breakdown. I opened the gates of hell. All of the emotions that I normally choke down, I threw them up.

First they came as a light drizzle, with a single hot tear sliding down my face. Then seemingly out of nowhere came the tsunami: all of the anger, hurt, depression, feelings of inadequacy, self-loathing, and many, many more. At this point, my face is drenched completely by my own tears. And I realized that this is the first time that I’ve allowed myself to feel in over two weeks.

In the back of my mind, I was scared of two things: That with all the sobbing that I was doing, I would wake up my parents and the second being that I would actually drown in my own tears. So I made to attempt to regain control of myself. To put the emotions that I had allowed to run as free as mustangs on the hills back into the stables that I had been building so carefully for over ten years.

But again I was surprised. Because I couldn’t do it. My emotions were stampeding over me and I had absolutely no control. I didn’t feel like fighting anymore. So I just decided to ride it out and pick up the pieces when they had finally ran themselves to exhaustion. When my emotions finally exhausted themselves, I dragged myself into bed and lied down.  
I looked at the clock.

It was midnight.

I had been crying for almost two hours.

By now, you must be asking “Why were you crying?”

I think it might be good for me to tell you the story; maybe it’ll help me move on.

Ok, my name is Campbell and this is my story...

